Meghan Hughes

Essential Belief Statement

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There have been aspects of school that have been daunting and frightening, and there have been times that have made me embrace the importance of a teacher in the life of any student. I have had both successful and unsuccessful teachers, and each of them were different in so many aspects. I wanted to become a teacher because I truly believe I can make a difference in the lives of my students. It is important for everyone to have confidence in something, and I believe I can help students to develop these confidences in my future classroom. Throughout my years of schooling I constantly sought guidance from certain teachers with whom I developed great relationships. I am a firm believer in the importance of successful relationships between teachers and students. It is because of the relationships I developed with a few teachers in high school that made me decide to pursue a career in teaching.

I chose to study Secondary Education because I enjoy working with students at that age. It is at that point in life that we as humans need the most guidance. I am in hopes that I will be able to help clear any confusion a student may be feeling as they develop into a young adult. I also chose to focus on teaching English because I love what the English language can do for a student. Giving someone confidence to express his/her ideas in a successful way is a freedom that is little found in any other content area. Being able to articulate and use the English language is a skill that is often taken for granted, but can either make or break the ultimate success of a student as he/she continues through life.

As a student I was able to find methods of teaching that worked for me, and I was also able to discover other methods that might work for students with different learning preferences than my own. I will be able to draw on the way I learned in order to help my students discover the method of teaching that will work best for them as individuals and as an entire class. In order to be a successful teacher I will need to draw on my own experiences and I will need to adapt based on the abilities and preferences of my students.

I expect my learning will not stop when I become a teacher. I expect that students will learn from me, and that I will also learn from each group of students I teach. I am fearful that students will somehow “slip through the cracks,” and it is my goal to see this does not happen. I expect to be a successful teacher based on my ability to adapt and react to the needs and preferences of all my students.

From this course I hope to gain a general idea of what it will be like to be a teacher based on the classroom experience. I hope that hearing experiences from others in this class will also help me to get a better understanding of all the aspects that a teacher must deal with on a daily basis. I also hope to seek some guidance and advice based on the experience I am faced with while in the classroom setting. I also hope to transition my thinking from thinking like a student to thinking like a teacher.